

REMARKS

I. Status of Claims

Claims 28-46 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-6, 9-17, 20-23, 26, and 27 have been cancelled, and new claims 28-46 have been added. Support for the new claims is found throughout the original specification. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

II. Rejection of claims 11-17, 20-23, 26, and 27 under 35 U.S.C §102(b)

Claims 11-17 and 20-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over “HTM in Style: Using Cascading Style Sheets” in the Spring 1999 Digital Systems Report authored by Anthony N. Mione (hereinafter “Mione”). Claims 11-17 and 20 –23 have been canceled and accordingly the rejection is moot with respect to these claims.

The rejection is respectfully traversed as it may be applied to new claims 28-46. Independent claims 28, 37, 42, and 46 define a method for rendering a graphical component on a computer display. Mione fails to disclose several features of each of these claims as will be further explained below.

Claim 28 defines a method for rendering a graphical component of a web page. The method includes the steps of determining whether a defined theme META tag is present in the web page upon receiving the request for rendering, routing the request to a theme manager, and rendering the graphical component. The routing step includes routing the rendering request to a theme manager within a dynamic link library of a computer operating system. The theme manager has tools responsible for rendering graphical components for both markup language and non-markup language applications.

Mione fails to disclose the steps of determining whether a defined theme META tag is present and upon finding the defined theme META tag, routing a request to an appearance manager disposed within a dynamic link library of a computer operating system as required by claim 28. Mione discloses style sheets for use with markup language documents. Mione does not disclose a theme manager responsible for

rendering graphical components for both markup language and non-markup language applications. The style sheets are for use with markup language applications.

Claim 37 defines a method for rendering a graphical component for a web page on the display of a computer when a web page is hosted by an application. The method includes instantiating the web page by the application, receiving a web page request, determining whether a defined theming flag is set by the application, and determining whether a META tag exists within the web page. The META tag may be one of absent, positive, and negative. Finally, the method includes routing the rendering request to an appearance manager within a dynamic link library of a computer operating system if the theming flag is set and the META tag is one of absent and positive. The appearance manager within the dynamic link library of the computer operating system assigns themed appearance characteristics.

Mione fails to disclose the steps of instantiating the web page, determining whether a defined theming flag is set by the application, and determining whether an absent, positive, or negative META tag exists within the web page. Mione further fails to disclose routing a request to an appearance manager disposed within a dynamic link library of a computer operating system if the theming flag is set and the META tag is one of absent and positive.

Claim 42 defines a method for rendering a graphical component upon receiving a web page request including determining whether the web page has specified cascading style sheet properties, determining whether a theme style is specified if no cascading style sheet properties are specified and routing the rendering request to an appearance manager within a dynamic link library of an operating system if the theme style is specified.

With regard to claim 42, Mione fails to disclose the steps of determining whether a theme style is specified if no cascading style sheet properties are specified and routing the rendering request to an appearance manager disposed within a dynamic link library of a computer operating system if the theme style is specified.

Claim 46 defines a computer readable medium storing instructions for performing a method similar to that of claim 28 and defines over Mione for the reasons set forth

above with respect to claim 28. Mione fails to show every feature of independent claims 28, 37, 42, and 46. Accordingly, Mione fails to anticipate these claims.

III. Rejection of Claims 1-6, 9, and 10

Claims 1-6, 9, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Mione in view of Cowen. Claims 1-6, 9, and 10 have been cancelled, thereby rendering the rejection moot with respect to these claims.

This rejection is respectfully traversed as it may be applied to new claims 28-46. The Office Action states that Cowen discloses META tags and that it would have been obvious to modify Mione by implementing META tags as taught by Cowen. However, even if combined, Mione and Cowen fail to disclose all of the features of independent claims 28, 37, 42, and 46 as set forth above.

The dependent claims are allowable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above in relation to the independent claims. Accordingly claims 28-46 are allowable over the art of record

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, claims 28-46 are now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims. If any issues remain which would prevent issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned prior to issuing a subsequent action. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional amount required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-2112.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 8, 2004



Kerry H. Owens

Reg. No. 37,412

SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.
2555 Grand Boulevard
Kansas City, Missouri 64108
Phone: (816) 474-6550